

Members

Sen. Connie Lawson
Chairperson
Sen. Rose Ann Antich-Carr
Rep. William Crawford
Rep. Mary Kay Budak
Ellen Clippinger
Cheryl Selig
Sven Schumacher
Kimberly Armstrong
Judy Nivens
Sharon Pierce
Reverend C.L. Day
Carol Johnson
Nathan Samuel
Natalie Wolf



BOARD FOR THE COORDINATION OF CHILD CARE REGULATION

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Authority: IC 12-17.2-3.1

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 21, 2004
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington
St., Room 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Sen. Connie Lawson; Chairperson; Rep. William Crawford;
Rep. Mary Kay Budak; Ellen Clippinger; Cheryl Selig; Kimberly
Armstrong; Judy Nivens; Reverend C.L. Day; Carol Johnson;
Natalie Wolf.

Members Absent: Sen. Rose Ann Antich-Carr; Sven Schumacher; Sharon Pierce;
Nathan Samuel.

Senator Lawson called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

Commission on Abused and Neglected Children

Dr. Patchner, Gail Folaron, and Rick Snyder, Commission on Abused and Neglected Children (Commission), presented information (Exhibit A-B) concerning the duties of the Commission, which include: (1) reviewing Indiana's public and private family services

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

delivery system for children at risk of abuse or neglect and for children who have been reported as suspected victims of child abuse or neglect, (2) reviewing federal, state and local funds appropriated to meet the service needs of children and their families, (3) reviewing current best practices standards for the provision of child and family services, (4) examining the qualifications and training of service providers, including foster parents, adoptive parents, child caring institution staff, child placing agency staff, case managers, supervisors, and administrators, and making recommendations for a training curriculum and other necessary changes, (5) recommending methods to improve use of available public and private funds to address the service needs, (6) providing information concerning identified unmet needs of children and families and providing recommendations concerning the development of resources to meet the identified needs, (7) suggesting policy, program, and legislative changes related to the family services to enhance the quality of the services and identify potential resources to promote change to enhance services, and (8) preparing a report consisting of the Commission's findings and recommendations, and the presentation of the implementation plan for a continuum of services for children at risk of abuse or neglect and for abused or neglected children and their families.

In response to questions from Board members, Commission members discussed: (1) some of the thirty-two recommendations contained in the Commission's final report, dated August 15, 2004, (2) the prioritization of recommendations, (3) costs associated with the recommendations, and (4) finding new sources of funding for the recommendations. The Board found that the recommendations outlined in the Commission's final report dated August 15, 2004, on abused and neglected children were appropriate. The Board recommended that when sufficient information is available, legislation should be prepared for introduction during the 2005 session of the General Assembly to address the Commission's findings.

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Quality Activities

Lanier DeGrella, FSSA, presented information concerning CCDF Quality Activities. She advised the Board that the CCDF provides block grant funding to support early care and education. A minimum of four percent of CCDF funds must be used to improve the quality of child care and offer additional services to parents, such as resource and referral counseling regarding the selection of appropriate child care providers to meet their child's needs. Previous funding has included additional funding for purposes such as quality expansion, improving the quality of care for infants and toddlers, and improving school-age care and Child Care Resource and Referral Services.

Ms. DeGrella discussed how Indiana is using its CCDF funds to improve the health and safety factors related to available child care, training, grants and loans to providers, improved monitoring, compensation projects, and other innovative programs. She mentioned the following programs, grants and initiatives: (1) the Teacher Education and Compensation Early Childhood Indiana (T.E.A.C.H.), (2) On Line Child Care Provider Learning, (3) the Community Child Care Initiative, (4) the Indiana Child Care Fund, (5) the Indiana Association for Child Care Resources and Referral, (6) Better Baby Care Indiana, (7) inclusive early intervention and special education services, and (8) business start-up workshops.

CCDF Voucher Program Process

Mark Snyder, child care provider, presented information (Exhibit C) concerning the POS device used to record the time of services provided to CCDF voucher children. Mr. Snyder discussed, using printouts from the POS device, his frustration with the computerized

process. Issues discussed included: (1) software problems, (2) computer system problems through the vendor (ACS), and (3) parent irresponsibility.

In response to Mr. Snyder's testimony, the Board suggested that FSSA resolve some of the issues presented by creating work groups consisting of vendors, providers, and FSSA personnel to work toward improving the CCDF system. Rep. Crawford requested that FSSA provide to the members of the Board the number of providers who stopped serving CCDF voucher children during the time period of July 1, 2004, to December 31, 2004.

The Board found that licensure, including compliance with the current minimum standards under IC 12-17.2-3.5, should be the minimum standard for CCDF provider eligibility.

Registered Ministries

Annette Biesecker, FSSA, presented information concerning the number of registered ministries in Indiana and the approximate number of ministries not meeting the IRS 501(c)(3) requirements to qualify as an exempt religious organization for tax purposes. She also explained the current process of acquiring proper documentation from the ministries showing qualification as an exempt entity. Senator Lawson distributed PD 3541 (Exhibit D), which allows only churches or religious ministries with a building, clergy member and congregation to operate a child care ministry, to the Board members for discussion. The Board did not recommend PD 3541 for introduction in the 2005 session of the General Assembly.

Administrative Rules and Policy Statements

Ms. Biesecker presented information (Exhibit E) concerning FSSA's authority to set policy in the absence of a promulgated rule. Ms. Biesecker distributed and discussed the list of changes in the proposed rules (Exhibit F) which were the results of public comments.

Ann Stefaniak, Kids Kove Day Care, addressed the home child care rule change concerning exit requirements in Class II home day cares. She asked for a grandfathering provision to be added to the rule to allow her current license to remain active.

In response to Ms. Biesecker and Ms. Stefaniak, the Board discussed and recommended amending IC 12-17.2-5-6.5 to allow for either emergency lighting or illuminated exit signs.

SB 178 (2004) Standard for CCDF Provider Eligibility

The Board discussed SB 178 (2004) (Exhibit G) which would have required licensure for CCDF provider eligibility after June 30, 2006, including compliance with the current minimum standards under IC 12-17.2-3.5. The Board recommended that SB 178 (2004) be revised for introduction during the 2005 session of the General Assembly.

PD 3542 Child Care Quality

Ms. Biesecker, FSSA, discussed how there are four environment rating scales, each designed for a different segment of the early childhood field. Each of the scales has items to evaluate: (1) physical environment, (2) basic care, (3) curriculum, (4) interaction, (5) schedule and program structure, and (6) parent and staff education. The environment rating scales were developed by FPG Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Pat Cole, Early Childhood Center, and Donna Mosco, Path and Qualities Mentor Program

discussed how their programs used the environment rating scales.

The Board discussed PD 3542 (Exhibit H) which requires the Division of Family and Children to adopt rules concerning the evaluation of child care centers, homes, and ministries as prescribed in the environment rating scales developed by FPG Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Board did not recommend PD 3542 for introduction in the 2005 session of the General Assembly.

Quality Standards for the National Association for Family Child Care Accreditation

Rachel Yoder, Early Childhood Alliance, presented information (Exhibit I) concerning how the Quality Standards for the National Association for Family Child Care Accreditation can be used as a model for developing state licensing rules and regulations. She addressed the following four areas of concern for child care home providers: (1) the provider can hear or see the children at all times, (2) the arrangement of space and use of materials are balanced to meet the needs of both the child care program and the provider's family, (3) square footage per child, and (4) training.

Monica Boyer presented information (Exhibit J) and Barbara Newton discussed their views on the supervision provisions in IC 12-17.2-5-17.5 and in 470 IAC 3-1.1-36.6.

The Board discussed PD 3579 (Exhibit K) which would require the Division of Family and Children to adopt rules concerning supervision of children in licensed child care homes as prescribed in the Quality Standards for the National Association for Family Child Care Accreditation. The Board did not recommend PD 3579 for introduction in the 2005 session of the General Assembly.

The Board reviewed the draft final report prepared by the staff attorney for the Board and approved the report by a vote of 11-0.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.